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AMENDMENT OF THE TREATY BANNING NUCLEAR WEAPON TESTS IN THE ATMOSPHERE, IN OUTER SPACE AND UNDER WATER

Letter dated 5 August 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a message by Mr. Ali Alatas, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia and President of the Amendment Conference of States Parties to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the signing of the Treaty (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 65 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Nugroho WISNUMURTI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/48/150.

ANNEX

Message dated 5 August 1993 by Mr. Ali Alatas, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia and President of the Amendment Conference of States Parties to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the signing of the Treaty

Today, the world commemorates the thirtieth anniversary of the signing of the Treaty Banning Nuclear Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water. Widely known as the partial or limited test-ban treaty, it was rightly hailed as a trail-blazing event. Although the Treaty left much room for improvement by not banning underground nuclear test explosions, it was none the less a historic milestone in nuclear arms control and disarmament because it was the first agreement between the rival nuclear Powers. To encourage this positive development, dozens of non-nuclear-weapon States, including my own country, Indonesia, signed the Treaty within weeks after it was concluded.

This anniversary is special not because it marks a long passage of time, but because we observe it when, for the first time since the Treaty was signed, silence reigns at the nuclear-weapon test sites. Today, more than ever before, there is hope that the Treaty's promise of a total test ban will be finally fulfilled.

In 1988, on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Treaty, Indonesia and five other States Members of the United Nations launched an effort to amend and to convert the 1963 Treaty into a comprehensive test-ban treaty. That effort was propelled as much by a keen sense of exigency as by hope. After we and the other non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty had waited in vain for a quarter of a century for the nuclear-weapon States to act on their own promise to do so, the only viable recourse left was to initiate the amendment process in accordance with the Treaty's provisions.

Thus, in January 1991, I had the honour of presiding over the Amendment Conference. Our hope of bringing the amendment process to its completion, however, could not be realized then, but the collective determination of the participants in the Conference was enough to at least prevent its outright termination.

The 1991 Conference empowered its President to consult with the parties to the Treaty to determine an appropriate time to resume its work. Accordingly, and pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/46, I shall convene a special meeting of the States parties to the Treaty on 10 and 11 August 1993 in New York, expressly for the purpose of examining the feasibility of reconvening the Amendment Conference later this year. It will be a privilege for me to receive the guidance of the States parties on this matter.

I feel that this thirtieth year of the Treaty which has begun so hopefully should not come to an end without a concerted effort by the international community to finish the work begun three decades ago by United States President Kennedy, Soviet Premier Khrushchev, and British Prime

Minister Macmillan. If the will of the parties is to hold a second session of the Amendment Conference, I shall do everything in my power to ensure that it will be a fitting and propitious occasion for the nations of the world to reaffirm the pledge enshrined in the 1963 Treaty to "seek the discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons in all spheres for all time".